

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 378
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Chattanooga Bar Association
on its 100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, great men and women who love the law and have endeavored mightily to serve justice as august members of the Chattanooga Bar Association are indeed worthy of this body's respect and commendation; and

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga Bar and Law Library Association was organized 100 years ago, on April 15, 1897, as a stock company that owned a law library available to its members; and

WHEREAS, according to Reginald Heber Smith's history of local bar associations, the economy of a central library appears to have been the compelling reason for the organization of a high proportion of local bar associations; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, the incorporators met in the law office of A.W. Gaines and, after R.L. Bright was elected Chairman and A.W. Gains Secretary, the charter was accepted and the books thrown open to stock subscriptions; and

WHEREAS, at the heart of any successful venture is a group of committed and dedicated individuals. The following forty-eight lawyers subscribed for stock in the order named: A.W. Gaines, Robert Pritchard, Foster V. Brown, Frank Spurlock J.B. Sizer, J.B. Frazier, J.H. Bible, R.H. Williams, George Lancaster, George T. White, Francis Martin, Alex W. Chambliss, James H. Trimble, William L. Frierson, Lewis Sheperd, Ken Wheeler, W.B. Swaney, Thomas H.

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Cooke, R.B. Cooke, Tomlison Fort, A.S. Dickey, S.P. Slover, J.H. Barr, David S. Anderson, D.L. Grayson, W.B. Garvin, E.S. Daniel, J.L. Foust, L.M. Elder, J.A. Caldwell, Charles D. McGuffey, Garnett Andrews, W.G.M. Thomas, L.M. Thomas, T.P. Chamlee, S.B. Wright, Oscar J. Peoples, Thomas C. Latimore, F.S. Yager, R.T. Wright, W.D. Carswell, J.H. McLean, J.B. Ragan, E. Watkins, H.B. Case, F.L. Case, J.B. Milligan and E.Y. Chapin; and

WHEREAS, by the end of the first year the membership in the Association grew to sixty-one members and has now grown to a membership that stands at eight hundred two; and

WHEREAS, this body takes great pleasure in recognizing the illustrious achievements of Tennesseans in their respective professions; many of the charter members became widely known. Robert Pritchard wrote a treatise on Wills and Administration, later revised and annotated by J.B. Sizer; Alex W. Chambliss became Mayor of Chattanooga and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tennessee; J.B. Frazier became Governor and United States Senator; and William L. Frierson served as Mayor of Chattanooga and as Solicitor General of the United States by appointment of President Wilson; and

WHEREAS, these sagacious members of the Chattanooga Bar Association have devoted their time and considerable talents to the good of the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, J.B. Frazier, Chattanooga's most outstanding lawyer, was a member of the five-man Board of Directors of the Chattanooga Bar and Law Association during the first five years of its existence. He is the only Chattanooga elected Governor of Tennessee, being reelected in 1904. In March 1905, he was elected by the state legislature to the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, Alexander Wilds Chambliss, Associate Justice and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, served on the Supreme Court of Tennessee for twenty-four years. His discerning and erudite opinions, especially in workman's compensation and corporate law, were widely cited throughout the United States and his judicial style is still emulated in appellate circles; and

WHEREAS, Estes Kefauver was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Chattanooga Bar Association for the years 1928 and 1929, and elected Vice President in 1931 -- the youngest lawyer ever to be elected to either office. In 1938, Governor Prentice Cooper named him Commissioner of Finance and Taxation. He began his meritorious service as the interim Third District Congressman in 1939 and was thereafter reelected to four consecutive terms. After his election to the United States Senate, he made two unsuccessful bids for the Democratic Presidential nomination and in 1956, Presidential nominee, Adlai Stevenson, in a rare gesture of public favor, threw the convention open for the election of a Vice Presidential candidate. Estes Kefauver won handily, but the Democratic ticket could not overcome the Eisenhower popularity; and

WHEREAS, W.L. Frierson ranks as Chattanooga's greatest constitutional lawyer and one of the greatest in Tennessee's history. He began his law practice in Chattanooga in 1890. From 1905 to 1907 he served as Mayor of the City of Chattanooga and was elected City Attorney in 1914. At the April, 1915, annual meeting of the Chattanooga Bar Association he was elected President and was the first to establish a budget. He was reelected in 1916 and in 1917. He resigned in October of 1917 to accept President Wilson's appointment as Assistant Attorney General of the United States. Soon thereafter, he was appointed Solicitor General of the United States. Mr. Frierson has the distinction of being the only Solicitor General to defend the constitutionality of three Amendments to the Constitution, successfully defending the Sixteenth (Income Tax), Eighteenth (Prohibition), and Nineteenth (Women's Suffrage); and

WHEREAS, one of the greatest accomplishments of the Association came on its 50th anniversary when it received the "Award of Merit" from the American Bar Association, being the first association south of the Mason-Dixon line to achieve that honor; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1971, stockholders voted unanimously to give the library to the Association; and

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga Bar Association was reorganized in 1972, the year of their Diamond Jubilee meeting; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the reorganization, the Chattanooga Bar Association has now grown to include twenty-two standing committees: ADR, Centennial Celebration, Civility, Continuing Legal Education, Court Relations, Entertainment, Fee Dispute/Arbitration, Law Library, Law Office Technology, Law-Related Education, Lawyer Referral and Information Service, Lawyers Helping Lawyers, Legislative, Membership Services, Memorial, Mock Trial, Policy, Planning & Platform, Pro Bono, Public & Bar Relations, Publications, Tel Law, and Unauthorized Practice of Law; and

WHEREAS, the Association has nine sections covering the following areas of law: Bankruptcy, Criminal Law, Estate Planning, Family Law, Federal Bar Association, Health Care, Labor & Employment, Real Estate, and Small Firms; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, the Chattanooga Bar Association also created a Young Lawyers Division that has grown to include five standing committees that sponsor among other things CLE/Brown Bag Luncheons, Law Week, and a Mock Trial competition. The YLD also supports the Community Kitchen and Habitat For Humanity; and

WHEREAS, an organization which realizes that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, the Chattanooga Bar Association has participated in numerous civic projects, including sponsorship of a room at the Ronald McDonald House and a substantial cash contribution; and

WHEREAS, during the Centennial year of the CBA, the following served on the Board of Governors Executive Committee: Stuart F. James, President; James A. Fields, President-Elect; S. Lee Akers, Secretary-Treasurer; and Lynda Minks Hood, Executive Director;

Board Members included: Charles J. Fleischmann, Immediate Past President; Robert C. Divine; Sam D. Elliott; Kellyann Mulroony Johnson; Michael J. Mahn; David C. Nagle; Patricia B. Vital; and Cynthia R. Freemon, President of the Young Lawyers Division;

Ex officio members included Honorable L. Marie Williams, Judicial Representative; Harry B. Ray, Chairman, Past Presidents Committee and Harold A. Schwartz, Jr, Chairman, Centennial Committee.

WHEREAS, The Chattanooga Bar Association has been a strong and vigorous organization for one hundred years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That this General Assembly congratulates the Chattanooga Bar Association on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and honors the Chattanooga Bar Association for its longstanding commitment to its mission of the four cardinal legal virtues of ETHICS, WORK, SERVICE, and HONOR.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.